

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04230 301451Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /041 W

-----018040 301502Z /40

R 301400Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8643
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USDA WASHDC
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4230

STATE FOR NEA/ARP
ATHENS FOR RTDO
TEHRAN FOR AGATT
USDAO FOR FAS/W
USDOC FOR BIC/CAGNE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BAGB, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAIT FOOD DECREE: LABELS IN ARABIC AND ISLAMIC CERTIFICATION

REF: STATE 170848

1. AMIRI DECREE, PUBLISHED ON JULY 3, 1977 IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE KUWAIT AL-YOUM, DID SET FORTH THE FOOD LABELLING REQUIREMENTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL.

2. THE KUWAIT MUNICIPALITY, NOT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, IS CHARGE WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS DECREE.

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3. EMBOFF RAISED MATTERS OF IMPLEMENTATION DATE, DATE OF MANUFACTURE, AND DATE OF VAILIDITY WITH ABDULWAHAB AL-MUTAWA AND ALI AL-FARAS, DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND SHOP LICENCES, THE OFFICE WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE DECREE. THEY RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS:

THE MUNICIPALITY HAS DECIDED TO DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECREE FOR SIX MONTHS FROM THE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED DATE OF AUGUST 2, 1977,--I.E. FEB. 2, 1978 -- TO ALLOW COMPANIES TIME TO INCORPORATE THE ARABIC LABEL INTO THEIR PACKAGING PROCESS. THE REGULATION DOES NOT REQUIRE AN ENTIRELY NEW LABEL; A PRINTED STICKER AFFIXED TO THE PRESENT LABEL IS ACCEPTABLE, IF IT SPECIFIES THE CONTENTS, THE MANUFACTURE DATE AND EXPIRATION DATE. EXCEPT FOR SUCH PERISHABLE ITEMS AS MILK PRODUCTS, THE DATE MAY SPECIFY JUST MONTH AND YEAR.

4. ON A SEPARATE MATTER, THE DECREE WENT ON TO STATE THAT FROZEN MEAT AND POULTRY CANNOT BE SOLD UNLESS SLAUGHTERED ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC LAW. DOCUMENTS FOR SHIPMENT OF AUSTRALIAN BEEF, MUTTON, AND POULTRY IMPORTED INTO KUWAIT PRESENTLY CONTAIN CERTIFICATION FROM THE IMAM OF AUSTRALIA ATTESTING TO ITS SLAUGHTERING ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC LAW. PRESUMABLY SIMILAR ATTESTATION FOR MEAT IMPORTED FROM U.S. WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

5. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE NEW REGULATIONS WILL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT BY AIRGRAM IN THE AUGUST 3 POUCH.

6. COMMENT: MANY LEADING KUWAITI FOOD IMPORTERS HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE MARKET FOR DECADES AND ARE HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL. THEY HAVE ALREADY HAD MANY DISCUSSION WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON THE NEW DECREE (AND ARE UNDOUBTEDLY BEHIND THE SIX MONTH DELAY) THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE. FIRMS HAVING QUERIES ABOUT THE NEW REGULATIONS SHOULD DIRECT THEM EITHER THROUGH THEIR AGENT OR DIRECTLY TO THE MUNICIPALITY, CO/O:

ALI A. A. AL-FARAS
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND SHOP LICENCES
KUWAIT MUNICIPALITY
P.O. BOX 10 SAFAT
KUWAIT, KUWAIT.
MAESTRONE

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Sent Date: 30-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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